NOTE XXX.

ON EGGS OF SOME BRITISH GUYANA BIRDS.

BY

Dr. C. G. YOUNG.

1. *Nyctidromus albicollis* (Gm.) [1].
Goat Sucker, Jumbi Bird.

They make no nest but lay their eggs in a depression in the ground where it is dry, on the beds of cultivated land, on the high dams between plantations, on the bare rocks up the rivers, and on the savannahs in the „Interior".

They lay two or three eggs.

The egg is smooth, regularly oval — 30 mm. by 22 mm. —, light pink with darker pink blotches.

They hatch from March to July. — One egg (N°. 1).

Although I kept all the eggs in the dark, the above mentioned one has much faded during its being in my possession.

2. *Progne chalybea* (Gm.).
Swallow.

They build a flat nest of coarse grass and fine sticks, lined with a few leaves, on the beams about houses.

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[1] Excepting three Herons and the two species of *Tinamus*, all the eggs, presented to our Museum by Dr. Young, have been accompanied by birds skins of the species the eggs belong to, and therefore identification is rendered quite easy and unmistakable. J. Büttikofer.

Although a number of nests are found at the same time on the same beam they are not sociable.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 25 mm. by 16 mm. — is white.

They hatch from May to August. — One egg (N°. 8).

3. *Fluvicola pica* (Bodd.).
Cotton Bird.

The nest is covered in, almost round like a ball, made of grass, and suspended from the extremity of the branch of low trees and shrubs, four or five feet from the ground. The place of entrance is near the attachment to the branch. Sometimes the nest is built in a thick bush when the lower part of the nest rests on the branch beneath.

They lay two eggs.

The egg — 18 mm. by 12 mm. — is cream white with a few reddish brown spots at the large end.

They hatch from January to May. — One egg (N°. 5).

4. *Pitangus sulphuratus* (Sw.).
Kickadu.

They make a domed nest, which is very rough on the outside and more like a wisp than a birds nest, of grass, pieces of cotton, and old rags when they can get them, on the extremity of the branch of low trees and shrubs a few feet from the ground, or on the outer branches of forest trees fifty or sixty feet from the ground; they never build in the heart of the tree near the stem, except when they build on palms.

They lay four eggs.

The egg — 29 mm. by 21 mm. — is cream, spotted on the large end with light and dark brown large and small spots; there may be a few small spots here and there over the rest of the egg.

They hatch from January to August. — Three eggs (N°. 6).

5. *Cassicus persicus* (L.).
Sawacco, Mocking Bird, Oriole.

They build in colonies and make a hanging nest of grass, tendrils of crisping plants, and strips torn from the leaves of the cocoanut palm, from the end of the branches of trees or low bushes, if the latter hang over water. They keep on the lea side of the tree. The distance of the nest from the ground depends a great deal on the locality, and is from eight feet on low bushes, to fifty or sixty feet on tall forest trees.

The nests are about eighteen inches long and four inches in diameter and are very uniform in shape and size. The shape is like a bag closed in at the top, with the entrance in the side near the attachment to the branch. The sides round the entrance project a little, forming a funnel. The bird builds from the inside and finishes the nest in from eight to ten days.

They lay two, rarely three eggs.

The egg — 30 mm. by 20 mm. — is white with a slight shade of blue, and may have a few light brown and violet spots at the large end, or a great many similar spots distributed over the entire surface.

They hatch from January to June, and if the year has been dry build again in October and November. If the first months of the year are very wet, their building operations are delayed. — Two eggs (N°. 17).

6. *Cassicus affinis*, Sw.

They build in colonies and make a nest like the nest of *Cassicus persicus*, on the same tree sometimes, but never on the same branch.

They lay two eggs.

The egg — 30 mm. by 21 mm. — is bluish white, thickly covered with light purple spots, more numerous at the large end, with a few light brown spots here and there.

The egg is distinguished from that of N°. 5 by having more spots and the spots being more uniform in tint.

They hatch from January to June. I have not seen them build in October. — One egg (N°. 18).

7. *Icterus xanthornus* (Gm.).
Yellow Plantain Bird.

They make a hanging nest of grass, like a bag, with an open mouth, from the end of branches of trees or low bushes. The nest is generally about eight or ten inches long, but may be eighteen inches long, and three or four inches in diameter. The bird builds from the inside and outside alternately, and as a consequence the nest is smooth on both sides.

They do not build in colonies, although two or more nests are found on one tree.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 25 mm. by 17 mm. — is white, having light violet and black irregular lines about the large end, the black lines commence with a spot.

They hatch from January to July: if the spring is wet they hatch later. — Two eggs (N°. 19).

8. *Rhamphocoelus jacapa* (L.).
Black Sackie.

The nest is open like a cup and built of twigs and dry leaves, especially the leaves of the bamboo, and lined with coarse fibres. They build in the centre of low thick bushes or in the fork of a branch of moderately high trees. Some nests are made of brown materials — brown twigs, brown leaves, and brown fibres — resembling the colour of the bird.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 21 mm. by 18 mm. — is greenish blue, spotted with black and purple spots, the former being more numerous at the larger end, or in a belt round the largest diameter.

They hatch from February to June. — Two eggs (N°. 16).

9. *Crotophaga ani*, L.
Old Witch, Keel-bill.

Some eight or ten birds build an oval, shallow, open nest, about eight inches long and four inches wide, of sticks, lined with leaves, in the centre of low bushes, especially in orange trees, a few feet from the ground. This nest is used in common, and when they are hatching, five or six birds sit on the nest at the same time. Twenty eggs have been taken out of one nest.

The egg is regularly oval — 38 mm. by 27 mm. —, smooth, and white in colour: if the egg is scratched it leaves a light green mark, the colour of the inside of the shell.

The size of the egg varies considerably in the same nest, probably due to the difference in age of the members of the colony.

They hatch in March, April and May. — Three eggs (N°. 7).

10. *Parra jacana*, L.
Spur-wing.

They build a deep open nest of grass and roots among the water plants on the unused canals, swamps, and edges of the creeks.

They lay four eggs.

The egg — 30 mm. by 23 mm. — is yellowish brown, thickly covered over with black irregular lines.

They hatch in April, May and June. — Two eggs (N°. 4).

11. *Ardea candidissima*, Gm.
White Gaulding.

One egg (N° 11).

12. *Ardea coerulea*, L.

Blue Gaulding.

One egg (N°. 12).

13. *Ardea tricolor*, Müll.

Ardea leucogaster, Gm. (Schleg. Mus. P.-B. Ardeae, p. 9).

Grey Gaulding.

One egg (N°. 13).

These three herons build a nest like the nest of *Nycticorax violaceus* (L.) mentioned sub N°. 15, in the same locality, at the same time, and often on the same tree. Once in a way isolated nests are found in the low bushes that fringe the creeks.

They lay two or three eggs.

The egg is light green, but varies much in shade as well as in shape and size, the length being about 42 mm. and the breadth about 30 mm.: some eggs are almost round. It is not possible to identify the egg by inspection alone: their eggs and the egg of N°. 14 can be distinguished by size only.

14. *Butorides griseus* (Bodd.).

Ardea scapularis, Ill. (Schleg. Mus. P.-B. Ardeae, p. 42).

Ardea cyanura, Vieill. Encycl. Méthod. p. 1120.

Shypook.

The nest is flat and made of sticks and grass in low bushes and tall water plants about unused canals and on the margin of quiet creeks.

They lay three or four eggs.

The egg — 37 mm. by 29 mm. — is light green.

They build in colonies, and hatch from May to July. — One egg (N°. 9).

15. *Nycticorax violaceus* (L.).

Quaak.

The nest of this bird is similar to the nest of *Butorides griseus*, only larger, and they build in colonies on the young Courida trees (*Avicennia nitida*) along the margin of the sea. The nest is built about six feet or so above the surface of the mud, in which one, standing under the tree, sinks to his waist.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 43 mm. by 31 mm. — is light green. They hatch in March and April. — One egg (N°. 10).

16. *Ibis* (*Harpiprion*) *cayennensis* (Gm.).
Black Curri-curri.

Their nest is made of sticks, and resembles the nest of the herons, being flat and built on moderately high trees, but, unlike the latter, they build up the creeks as a rule.

They lay four eggs.

The egg is bluish green, and varies in shape and size. They average 43 mm. by 35 mm. They build in colonies and hatch in April, May and June. — Two eggs (N°. 14).

17. *Ibis rubra*, Vieill.
Curri-curri.

They have also a flat nest, in colonies, of sticks, and build on moderately high trees on the sea shore, generally by themselves, but sometimes among the small herons.

They lay two or three eggs.

The egg is more uniform in shape and of a lighter green than the egg of N°. 16, and averages 45 mm. by 33 mm.

They hatch in April and May. — One egg (N°. 15).

18. *Tinamus major*, J. E. Gray.
Tinamus subcristatus, Cab. (Schomburgk, Reise, III, p. 749).
Maam, Bush-fowl.

The nest is a depression on the ground in which they place a few dry leaves and bits of dry grass.

They lay from six to eight eggs.

The egg is smooth, regularly oval — 56 mm. by 46 mm. —, and of a greenish blue.

They hatch in April and May, and are not found on the coast. — Two eggs (N°. 2).

19. *Crypturus variegatus*, Wagl.
Small Maam, Bush-fowl.

Their nest is similar to that of N°. 18, but they are found on the coast lands.

They lay four or five eggs.

The egg is smooth, regularly oval — 40 mm. by 30 mm. —, and dark chocolate in colour.

They hatch from February to June. — Two eggs (N°. 3).

Much faded afterwards, though having been kept in the dark.

New Amsterdam, Berbice, British Guyana. March 20th, 1889.